

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00336 211555Z

40

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

IO-11 AF-06 /081 W

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O P 211540Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5936

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0336

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UN

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUES STAKE OUT HEADLINE
POSITION AT SC

1. DESPITE URGENCY WITH WHICH SARG TREATING MOUNTING
LEBANESE CRISIS, SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUES TO FEATURE
IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AND TO PREDICT
SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN VICTORY.

2. AL-BAATH "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" IN NEW YORK
INDICATED THAT "VICTORY" MAY BE MORAL RATHER THAN PRACTICAL,
NOTING POSSIBILITY OF US VETO, HE COMMENTED IT "WOULD
CHANGE NOTHING BECAUSE IMPORTANT THING IS TO OBTAIN
OVERWHELMING MAJORITY APPROVAL OF DRAFT RESOLUTION,
ESPECIALLY EUROPEAN MAJORITY, IN WHICH CASE AMERICAN
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VETO WOULD LOSE ITS MORAL VALUE AND U.S. WOULD

BEAR COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES OF
FAILURE OF DRAFT RES. SYRIA AND ARAB NATION WOULD
THEN ACHIEVE GREAT DIPLOMATIC VICTORY -- RECOGNITION
BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS."

3. ANOTHER AL-BAATH COLUMNIST REITERATED VIEW THAT
U.S. VETO WOULD "PROVE" AMERICA "NOT SINCERE" IN
STRIVING FOR JUST AND DURABLE PEACE, THAT U.S. SIMPLY
MANEUVERING TO GAIN TIME UNTIL AMERICAN ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, THAT SINAI II HAD UNDERMINED ARAB
SOLIDARITY AND AIDED "ZIONIST EXPANSIONIST CAMPAIGN",
AND THAT U.S. EVINCING CONTINUING WILLINGNESS TO
"DEFY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AS EXPRESSED THROUGH UNGA."

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING HARDLINE BELIES CERTAIN
PRIVATE COMMENTS, ATTRIBUTED TO SENIOR SARG OFFICIAL,
THAT DAMASCUS INTENDS BE MODERATE AT SC DEBATE AND WOULD
NOT OBJECT TO EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF COUNCIL SESSION.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC00336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760022-1220
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760136/aaaabfbk.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUES STAKE OUT HEADLINE POSITION AT SC
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006